

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Project Safe Neighborhoods: Springfield Man Charged with Armed Robbery of National City Bank and Possession of a Firearm by a Felon**

Springfield, IL- Jan Paul Miller, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that a federal grand jury returned an indictment today charging Shawn William Bland, age 25, of 1523 East Jackson Street, Springfield, Illinois, with the armed robbery of National City Bank, 802 South 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Springfield, Illinois. The three-count indictment alleges Bland took approximately \$4,575 from the bank on March 24, 2005, and that he carried and used a firearm during a crime of violence. Further, the indictment charges Bland with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The affidavit in support of the complaint filed on May 13, 2005, alleges that Bland entered the bank on March 24, 2005, and pointed a handgun at bank employees. At the time of the robbery, according to the affidavit, Bland was on parole from the Illinois Department of Corrections for armed robbery and had been released from prison in September 2004. According to the affidavit, Bland was arrested by Illinois State Police on March 27, 2005, when, following a traffic stop in Lincoln, Illinois, police recovered a .380 caliber, semi-automatic pistol during a search of the vehicle.

If convicted, the offense of armed bank robbery carries a maximum sentence of 25 years imprisonment. If convicted of using a firearm during a crime of violence, the penalty is a minimum seven years imprisonment to be served consecutive to all other sentences imposed. For the offense of being a felon in possession of a firearm, the penalty is up to 10 years in prison.

(More)

The charges are the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Springfield Police Department, and the Illinois State Police; the case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory K. Harris as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment and a complaint are merely accusations; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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